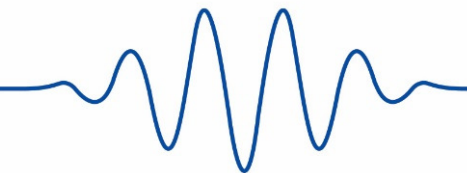


■ Thornbury and South Gloucestershire Club Presentation



Radio Society of Great Britain

Advancing amateur radio since 1913



■ Overview

- Introductions
- OfCom Consultation – Overview
- Where and how to respond
- Discussion
- Response format



Overview

What we are proposing – in brief

We are proposing changes to our amateur radio licences and guidelines to ensure they meet the needs of today and tomorrow's radio amateurs and streamline the licensing processes. Our proposed changes would:

1. Update the overall licensing framework:

- Maintain the existing 3-tier licensing framework while streamlining Notices of Variation (NoV);
- Maintain lifetime licences while updating our mechanisms for revalidation;
- Allow anyone to operate amateur radio equipment under a licensee's supervision;
- Only permit licensees to hold a single individual licence, requiring surrender of lower licences as they progress.

2. Streamline and modernise call sign assignment:

- Update our call sign allocation policy in a number of areas including (i) changes to the rules on the reissuing of call signs; (ii) changes to the number of call signs that can be held; (iii) enabling licensees to change their call sign; (iv) expanding the use of suffixes; (v) introducing a new M8 and M9 Intermediate call sign format; (vi) making Regional Secondary Locators (RSLs) optional and simplifying the process for using a special RSL; and (vii) simplifying rules around Special Event Stations.

3. Adjust technical parameters to reflect the evolving needs of the hobby and provide radio amateurs with greater operating freedom:

- Increase the maximum permitted transmit power to allow (i) 20 Watts for Foundation and 100 Watts for Intermediate licensees in most bands; and (ii) 1000 Watts for Full licensees in bands where amateur radio has a primary allocation;
- Allow Foundation and Intermediate licensees to use the internet for remote control operation;

Where to Find Information

ofcom.org.uk/consultations-and-statements/category-2/updating-amateur-radio-licensing-framework

Apps G7KNA | The Virtual... OS Maps PortableApps.com Sbarctraining | Jitsi... South Bristol Amate... Strategic Estates M... Wordle - The New...



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Consultation: Updating the amateur radio licensing framework

Start: 23 June 2023 • Status: Open • End: 04 September 2023

We are proposing to make a number of changes to the amateur radio licensing framework, to make sure it meets the needs of today and tomorrow's radio amateurs.

Having reviewed the framework, we think we can:

- provide greater operating freedom for radio amateurs; and
- make the process of getting and using a licence simpler, clearer and more responsive.

We are not proposing any changes to the frequency bands that amateurs can access.

Responding to this consultation

Please submit responses using the [consultation response form \(ODT, 61.7 KB\)](#).

Main documents

[Consultation: Updating the amateur radio licensing framework](#)

(PDF File, 1.1 MB)

Responses

No responses to show.

Related content

[Call for inputs: Evolution of the shared access licence framework](#)

30 March 2023

How to respond

Address

Amateur Radio Review
Ofcom
FAO Spectrum Licensing
PO Box 1285
WA1 9GL

Email

amateur.radio.review@ofcom.org.uk



Radio Society of Great Britain
Advancing amateur radio since 1913



theRSGB



@theRSGB



YouTube

Response Questions



¶

Response form ¶

Please complete this form in full and return to amateur.radio.review@ofcom.org.uk ¶

We are currently trialling a new, automated way of reading responses. To help us with this, please follow the below guidelines when responding: ¶

- → If the question is irrelevant to you, then do not write anything at all — leave the box empty. ¶
- → If you have a response that answers multiple questions, copy and paste it into the box for each relevant question. ¶
- → Please try to avoid using footnotes — put all links in the answer box. ¶
- → If you don't use the question template, try to reference the question you are answering clearly. ¶

Consultation title ¶	¶
Updating the amateur radio licensing framework ¶	¶
¶	¶
Full name ¶	¶
¶	¶
¶	¶
Contact phone number ¶	¶
¶	¶
¶	¶
Representing (please state one of the following: "Self" or "Organisation") ¶	¶
¶	¶
¶	¶
Organisation name (if applicable) ¶	¶
¶	¶
¶	¶
Email address ¶	¶
¶	¶
¶	¶

¶

Response Questions

Question 14 (section 5): Foundation Licence
<i>Is this a confidential response? Please state "Yes" or "No"</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Do you agree with our proposed changes to allow Foundation Licence holders to build their own equipment and access the 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz frequency bands?</i>
<i>Please state "Yes" or "No"</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Do you have any other comments on this proposal?</i>
<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>

Question 17 (section 3): Changes to licence terms and conditions
<i>Is this a confidential response? Please state "Yes" or "No"</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Do you agree to Ofcom's proposed changes to the licence terms and conditions? Please state "Yes" or "No"</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Do you have any other comments on this proposal?</i>
<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>

Response Questions

We propose that as licensees progress, their lower level licence would be revoked

- 3.25 We propose that when a licensee progresses to the next level of licence, the lower level licence would be revoked. For example, when going from Intermediate to a Full Licence, the Intermediate Licence would be revoked, leaving the licensee with the Full Licence alone. This would stop the number of licensees holding multiple licences from increasing.
- 3.26 To implement this, we are proposing a new provision to be included in the grounds for revocation section of the licence, as part of our proposed implementation phase 1. This would enable Ofcom to revoke a licence if the licensee were to acquire an amateur radio licence at a higher level following the completion of our implementation phase 3.

Question 1: Do you agree with our proposal that each licensee should only be able to hold one personal licence? Do you have any other comments on this proposal?

Response Questions

We propose to simplify the rules on third party use

Proposed new rules for individual licensees

- 3.31 We believe that the current rules concerning who may operate the radio equipment are too complex and restrict the ability of the hobby to showcase itself. We therefore wish to simplify the rules, while ensuring that the licensee remains ultimately answerable for the operation of the radio equipment.
- 3.32 We propose that anyone should be able to use the radio equipment, providing that this is under the direct supervision of the licensee (with separate provisions for Full (Club) Licences). The licensee must ensure that this is done in compliance with all applicable terms and conditions of the licence and at all times remains responsible for operation of the radio equipment. This is the approach that we have adopted for the use of radio on ships and aircraft, for example, where safety of life is a consideration.
- 3.33 This would be carried out as part of phase 1 of our implementation plan.

Proposed new rules for Full (Club) licences

- 3.34 For Full (Club) Licences, we are proposing to make it easier for people to participate in activities. At present holders of Full Licence may operate the club's station unsupervised, or supervise third parties to do so, if the holder of the Full (Club) licence has permitted them to do so. However there are a number of restrictions about what activities may be undertaken, and by whom.
- 3.35 We propose to provide more freedoms to clubs in their operation, so that where the licensee has agreed, any Full licensee may supervise others (without licences) to operate the radio equipment. Currently, these supervised users may only send a message.
- 3.36 This would be implemented as part of phase 1 work.

Question 2: Do you agree with our proposals to permit greater supervised use of the radio equipment by others? Do you have any other comments on this proposal?

Response Questions

We propose to introduce a new M8 and M9 Intermediate call sign format

- 4.7 As we highlight above, the call signs we assign under the Intermediate Licence are in the format '20ABC' (formerly '21ABC'). If transmitted as assigned, this format would not conform to the requirements of Article 19 of the Radio Regulations.¹⁷ To conform with Article 19 we require licensees to insert a Regional Secondary Locator ('RSL') into an Intermediate call sign, to split the digits (so the initially assigned call sign e.g. '21ABC' must become the transmitted call sign of e.g. '2I1ABC').
- 4.8 We understand that this call sign format is not universally popular with radio amateurs and that the terms are complex.¹⁸ We are therefore proposing a new format for Intermediate Licence call signs which would be consistent with Foundation, Full and Full (Club) call signs. It would allow us to apply uniform rules on the use of RSLs. In time, it would hopefully lead to a consistent format of call signs for Intermediate stations, making it easier for radio amateurs worldwide to understand UK call signs.
- 4.9 If we were to proceed with these proposals they would be introduced as part of our phase 2 work.

Question 3: Do you agree with our proposal to use M8 and M9 for Intermediate licensees going forward? Do you have any other comments on this proposal?



Response Questions

Question 4: Do you agree with our proposals to change our policies on the use of RSLs?
Do you have any other comments on this proposal?

- RSL's to become "optional"
- "E" to be allowed for G and M calls
- Allows use of "special" RSLs like "Q" without NOV

Response Questions

We propose to remove references to some specific suffixes in the licence

- 4.30 Although not mandated in the amateur radio licence, these four suffixes are referenced in a number of areas. The very complex rules around the waterborne use of 'M' ('Mobile') and 'MM' ('Maritime Mobile'), for example, are confusing and it is unclear how enforcing them would support our duty to manage the radio spectrum. As the suffixes do not form part of the core call sign and are not required for the management of the radio spectrum, we do not believe these four specific suffixes should be referenced in the licence. We therefore propose to remove the references relating to these from the licence.

We propose to amend the licence to make clear that licensees may use suffixes

- 4.31 In recent years, we have allowed the use of some other suffixes, for example allowing radio amateurs to celebrate the National Health Service or Youth On The Air (YOTA). The feedback we have received has been positive and has shown that this is a good way for radio amateurs to get behind such occasions.
- 4.32 We appreciate that these remain of great interest to the hobby but do not think there is a role for the spectrum regulator in managing their use. We are therefore proposing to amend the licence provisions relating to the use of suffixes as above and to make clear that licensees are allowed to use whatever suffix they wish,²³ as long as the station remains clearly identifiable at all times. The proposed amendment is set out in Condition 6.23 of the Proposed Amateur Conditions Booklet and would be implemented as part of phase 1.

Question 5: Do you agree with our proposals to allow the use of any suffix? Do you have any other comments on this proposal?

Response Questions

Question 6: Do you agree with our proposals to allow a change of call signs? Do you have any other comments on this proposal?

- Allow periodic changes to callsign
- Limit changes to 2 years max frequency
- Is this contrary to the requirement for clear identification (3.20)

Question 7: Do you agree with our proposals on the limits to how many call signs can be held? Do you have any other comments on this proposal?

- Individuals hold only 1 callsign
- Clubs hold up to 5 callsigns

Question 8: Do you agree with our proposal to simplify special event call signs? Do you have any other comments on this proposal?

- Scrap Special Specials
- All SES Gbxcccccca available by direct online application

Response Questions

Table 5: Proposed power level changes for most bands³⁶

Licence class	Old power limit (PEP)	Proposed power limit (PEP)
Foundation	10 Watts / 10 dBW	20 Watts / 13 dBW
Intermediate	50 Watts / 17 dBW	100 Watts / 20 dBW
Full and Full (Club)	400 Watts / 26 dBW	1000 Watts / 30 dBW in bands labelled as amateur primary. Other bands would remain at the current power limit.

5.6 These proposals would be implemented as part of our phase 1 work.

We propose to retain the use of Peak Envelope Power (PEP) for transmission limits

- 5.7 Taking account of discussions with radio amateurs we propose to retain PEP as the primary measure of radio amateur transmit power for most standard operations, with separate requirements for some specific operations³⁷ and in relation to EMF safety requirements.
- 5.8 Licensees are separately required to calculate the output of their transmissions in Effective radiated power (ERP) or Effective isotropic radiated power (EIRP) as part of the licence conditions to comply with the [electromagnetic field \(EMF\) safety requirements](#).

Question 9: Do you agree with our proposals to increase transmit power? Do you have any other comments on this proposal?

Response Questions

We propose to enable all licensees to use internet based technologies for remote control operation

- 5.9 We are proposing that any licensee may use a non-amateur frequency method of connection such as the internet. Currently, only the holder of a Full Licence may use a non-amateur frequency method of connection; Foundation and Intermediate Licence holders are not able to use links such as Wi-Fi or the internet. We see no spectrum management reason why this should be the case and we are proposing that all licensees would be able to use any communication links to control the radio equipment.
- 5.10 The draft licence condition for this proposal is set out in Condition 6.9 of the Proposed Amateur Conditions Booklet and if we decide to proceed with this proposal it would be implemented as part of the phase 1 licence variation.

Question 10: Do you agree with our proposed changes to remote control operation? Do you have any other comments on this proposal?

Response Questions

Question 11: Do you agree with our proposed changes to Beacon operation? Do you have any other comments on this proposal?

- Some beacon use without NoV
- Fnd, Int and Full operate 5W beacons under normal licence
- Int and Full operate 25W beacons under normal licence but requires a beacon callsign
- Demonstrate taken risks to avoid undue interference
- OfCom will not stipulate how this is done by refer to the ETCC

Response Questions

Question 12: Do you agree with our proposed changes to Gateways? Do you have any other comments on this proposal?

- Remove need for an NoV to connect to the internet
- Important for hotspots and digital systems
- Low power device making the connection (<5W ERP)

Question 13: Do you agree with our proposed changes to repeaters? Do you have any other comments on this proposal?

- Allow Int and Full to deploy a repeater without an NoV
- Low Power (<5W)
- Licensee takes reasonable steps to ensure only amateur use and is responsible for ALL transmissions
- Full can deploy greater than 5W but need a specific callsign
- As with beacons, demonstrate how interference is minimised

Response Questions

Question 14: Do you agree with our proposed changes to allow Foundation Licence holders to build their own equipment and access the 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz frequency bands? Do you have any other comments on this proposal?

- Fnd get to build transmitting equipment
- Fnd gain access to 2.4GHz and 5GHz at 1W PEP

Question 15: Do you agree to Ofcom's proposals to permit some limited airborne use? Do you have any other comments on this proposal?

- Some ham bands contain licence free "ISM" allocations that permit airborne use
- Primary amateur allocations can be used subject to <500mW EIRP
- Not meant to be a substitute for UAS licences
- Amateur Radio only authorises use of radio not other aspects of airborne use



Response Questions

Question 16: Do you agree to Ofcom's proposed changes in licence format and the alignment of standard terms and conditions? Do you have any other comments on this proposal?

Question 17: Do you agree to Ofcom's proposed changes to the licence terms and conditions? Do you have any other comments on this proposal?